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Department of State

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 177707

E. O. 12065: NA
TAGS: CASC: (SULLIVAN, JOHN J.)
SUBJECT: W/W - JOHN J. SULLIVAN

REF: A) SAN SALVADOR 4908; B) SAN SALVADOR5022; C) SAN SALVADOR 660

1. DEPT APPRECIATES EMBASSY'S INITIATIVE IN FOLLOWING UP RECEIPT OF LATEST SULLIVAN LETTER WITH A CONSULAR VISIT TO THE REPORTED GRAVE SITE. WE AGREE THIS LATEST MISSIVE SHOULD BE HANDLED OBJECTIVELY AND WITH SOME HEALTHY SKEPTICISM. IT IS THE FIRST INSTANCE OF AN ANONYMOUS INFORMANT WANTING TO BE PAID ONLY IF INFORMATION PROVES USEFUL. THAT AND HIS CREATION OF A SAFE METHOD OF ESTABLISHING CONTACT ARGUES AGAINST DISMISSING THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE LETTER WITHOUT FIRST PURSUING IT FURTHER. THE PROBLEM IS WHAT TO DO NEXT? WHEN CONSULAR OFFICERS INSPECTED THE RECORDS OF UNIDENTIFIED BODIES IN THE ARCHIVES OF SANTA - TECLA (RETEL C), THEY DID NOT CHECK THE RECORDS FOR DECEMBER, 1980 OR JANUARY, 1981. THEY SHOULD DO SO NOW IN ORDER TO CLOSE THAT LINE OF INQUIRY ONCE AND FOR ALL.

2. IT MIGHT ALSO BE PRODUCTIVE TO REINTERVIEW LOCAL OFFICIALS INNUEVO CUSCATLAN. IF THEY IN FACT HAD WITHHELD INFORMATION FOR FEAR OF BECOMING INVOLVED, IT WOULD BE WELL

TO LEAVE THEM WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT WE KNOW MORE THAN WE ADMIT TO, AND THAT WE ARE INTERESTED IN THE TRUTH AND NOT IN PUNISHING AN UNDERSTANDABLE RELUCTANCE ON THEIR PART TO BECOME INVOLVED. GIVE THEM THE IDEA THAT THE TIME FOR DISCLOSURE HAS NOW COME.

3. FINALLY, WE CAN ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH SANTIGO JIMENEZ TO HAVE HIM FURTHER REFINE HIS INFORMATION.
HAIG

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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